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[NCEA 30 Day Outlook 8-9-17.docx](#)

National Center for Environmental Assessment Weekly Report for August 9th, 2017

Notables listed below and 30-day Outlook attached.

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

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SAB peer review meeting for ETBE and TBA. On August 15-17, the Science Advisory Board Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee will hold a peer review meeting on the draft IRIS assessments for ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) and tert-butanol (TBA).

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Working Group on Critical Loads of Atmospheric Deposition. Christopher Clark is leading a discussion series of the Working Group on Critical Loads of Atmospheric Deposition, on how to combine critical loads of nitrogen and sulfur deposition for tree species for decision making across the EPA, US Forest Service, and the National Parks Service (8/3, 8/17, 9/7, 9/21).

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With the Programs, Regions, and States

EPA's 2010 IRIS assessment of chloroprene. In response to a Request for Correction (RfC) regarding EPA's 2010 IRIS assessment of chloroprene, a chemical used in the production of neoprene products, ORD, OAQPS, R6 and OEI are meeting August 7, 2017 to develop a path forward in evaluating the Request and developing an Agency response. This cross-agency Scoping Team meeting is complemented by weekly meetings within ORD/NCEA addressing the scientific issues identified in the RfC. The RfC process requires an Agency response by late October 2017, to include extensive review within EPA and by OMB.

Introduction to “Molecules to Macrosystems: EPA Research Webinar Series on Aquatic Ecosystem Connectivity and Function.” On August 8th, Laurie Alexander and Rose Kwok kicked off this OW-led webinar series on insights from recent and emerging research on aquatic ecosystem connectivity relevant to a wide range of Clean Water Act (CWA) responsibilities. This is an internal, EPA-only webinar. Additional webinars in this series are scheduled every other Tuesday at noon through the end of the year.

Overview of the Risk-Related Services from the Superfund Health Risk Technical Support Center. On August 9, Beth Owens delivered a presentation titled “Overview of the Risk-Related Services from the Superfund Health Risk Technical Support Center” at the OLEM Human Health Regional Risk Assessors Forum (OHRRAF) training conference in Philadelphia. The presentation provided an overview of the risk-related services available from the Superfund Health Risk Technical Support Center (STSC), including a description of PPRTVs, the nomination of chemicals for future PPRTVs, and the breadth of work available through the STSC Hotline.

Risk and Exposure Assessment (REA) and Policy Assessment (PA). John Vandenberg participated in a briefing for Sarah Dunham and others on the plans for development of a Risk and Exposure Assessment (REA) and Policy Assessment (PA) as part of the Sulfur Oxides National Ambient Air Quality Standards review. ORD/NCEA is under court-ordered deadline to complete the Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Oxides of Sulfur-Health Criteria by December 14, 2017, which serves as the science foundation for the REA and PA. Key scientific evidence contained in the ISA was discussed during the AA briefing.

2018 NC BREATHE Conference. Ellen Kirrane was asked to serve on the planning committee for the 2018 NC BREATHE Conference. NC BREATHE, which is sponsored by Clean Air Carolina, Medical Advocates for Healthy Air and the Duke Environmental Health Scholars Program, is forum to bring together economists, environmental scientists, health experts and other interested stakeholders to share the latest research related to the human health, environmental, and economic impacts of air pollution policies. This conference focuses on issues important to North Carolina. Previous NC BREATHE Conferences have included ORD and OAR staff serving as speakers, panel discussants, poster presenters, and exhibitors. This work falls under HHRA Topic 2, Task 3.3 (2.213).

Risk and Technology Review (RTR) rule for Portland Cement Production. John Stanek and Andrew Hotchkiss were asked to review the draft proposed Risk and Technology Review (RTR)

rule for Portland Cement Production. The Final Agency Review (FAR) is set for August 15 at 1:30 pm. This RTR is in support of the mandated 33 RTRs for specific source categories to be completed by EPA by 2020.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCT UPDATES

Systematic review protocol on river and stream nutrient impacts published. A protocol for a systematic review being conducted by NCEA on chlorophyll responses to nutrients in streams and rivers was published in the journal *Environmental Evidence*, outlining the literature sources and screening approach, quality evaluation criteria, and synthesis methods to be applied. Micah Bennett, Kate Schofield, Sylvia Lee, and Susan Norton are authors. The protocol will serve as the basis for two similar systematic reviews targeting other endpoints (diatoms and macroinvertebrates), all with the goal of supporting Office of Water's work to aid states develop nutrient criteria.

DOI: 10.1186/s13750-017-0097-8

<https://environmentalevidencejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13750-017-0097-8>

A publication in *Notulae Algarum*. Sylvia Lee was co-author on a publication in the journal *Notulae Algarum* entitled: The valid transfer of *Stauroneis goeppertiana* to *Luticola* (Bacillariophyceae). This paper corrects the invalid transfer of a diatom species to a different genus. The previous transfer was invalid because the original name was not correctly cited in accordance to the Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi, and Plants. Co-authors include collaborators from University of Iowa, Texas Christian University, and the Science Museum of Minnesota. The lead author is an undergraduate student from University of Iowa. The paper can be accessed from:

<http://www.notulaealgarum.com/documents/Notulae%20algarum%20No.%2029.pdf>

A publication in *Ecosphere* on terrestrial eutrophication. Christopher Clark published a manuscript in *Ecosphere* on August 1, on terrestrial eutrophication from atmospheric deposition of nitrogen and the ecosystem services impacted across several ecoregions of the United States (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ecs2.1877/full>).

DOI: 10.1002/ecs2.1877

Benchmark Dose Software (BMDS) version 2.7. Jeff Gift, Allen Davis, and Todd Blessinger plan to release Benchmark Dose Software (BMDS) version 2.7 by August 18, 2017. This release

contains various bug fixes and enhancements, which continue BMDS's evolution as a mature, widely-used product. Additionally, users will see new features including BMDS models reporting the benchmark dose upper confidence limit (BMDU) in addition to the lower confidence limit (BMDL). This work falls under HHRA Topic 4, Task 9.1 (4.231).

Population-based case-control study of the association between weather-related extreme heat events and neural tube defects. In collaboration with National Birth Defect Prevention Study (NBDPS) colleagues, Tom Luben has published "*Population-based case-control study of the association between weather-related extreme heat events and neural tube defects*" in Birth Defects Research. Overall, the authors did not observe elevated risks between extreme heat events during early pregnancy and neural tube defects, though consistently elevated risk estimates were observed for some geographic regions included in the study (i.e., the Northeast [NY], Southeast [NC, GA], and Upper Midwest [IA]), but not for others (i.e., South [AR, TX], Southwest [UT], and West [CA]). The authors also evaluated the potential for body mass index (BMI) to modify the effect of heat on neural tube defect risk, and observed no evidence of effect measure modification. This work falls under HHRA Topic 2, Task 3.3 (2.213).

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